

Message Text

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ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5432

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PASS SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION COLEMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (WESTERTERP, T.), NL

SUBJECT: PROPOSED US VISIT BY MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
WESTERTERP

REF: THE HAGUE 5720 OF NOVEMBER 25, 1974

1. IN MARCH 10 CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE WESTERTERP
CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO VISIT
WASHINGTON THIS SPRING AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED AT THE
INVITATION OF THE US SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION. THE
"THEMES OF DISCUSSION" FOR HIS OFFICIAL CONVERSATIONS
WOULD REMAIN AS GIVEN IN REFTEL. WESTERTERP FOR HIS
PART WOULD BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION OR GIVE
HIS VIEWS ON ANY OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST TO OUR
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES.
2. ON TIMING, WESTERTERP IS PREPARED TO SPEND UP TO
ONE WORKWEEK TO ALLOW TIME FOR SOME TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF
WASHINGTON TO ANY POINTS OF INTEREST PROPOSED BY THE
DOT. HIS FIRST AVAILABLE PERIOD WOULD START ON TUESDAY,
APRIL 29. IF THIS IS NOT SATISFACTORY, HE SUGGESTS THE
LATTER PART OF MAY.
3. COMMENT: WESTERTERP, A FORMER INTERNATIONAL VISITOR

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GRANTEE, HAS BEEN A GOOD AND VALUABLE FRIEND OF THE US

FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HIS RELATIONS WITH THE EMBASSY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HARMONIOUS AND COOPERATIVE. HE WAS GIVEN THE DIFFICULT ASSIGNMENT OF HEADING THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION TO THE LAST TWO ROUNDS OF OUR BILATERAL CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS. HE PROVED TO BE A TOUGH AND DEMANDING NEGOTIATOR BUT HE CONSISTENTLY ENDEAVORED TO MINIMIZE THE ADVERSE IMPACT ON US-NETHERLANDS RELATIONS DESPITE THE STRINGENCY OF HIS NEGOTIATING MANDATE. HIS READY ACCEPTANCE OF OUR PROPOSAL FOR A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WALDMANN IS CHARACTERISTIC OF WESTERTERP'S UNDERLYING POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US. ALTHOUGH REMOVED FROM THE MAINSTREAM OF PARTY POLITICS BECAUSE OF HIS MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES, WESTERTERP REMAINS AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN HIS CATHOL PEOPLE'S PARTY. AT AGE 45 HE HAS POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER SERVICE AT THE TOP LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

. RECOMMENDATION: IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT SECRETARY COLEMAN INVITE WESTERTERP TO VISIT WASHINGTON THIS SPRING ALONG THE LINES DESCRIBED ABOVE. IF SECRETARY COLEMAN IS AGREEABLE, THE INVITATION COULD BE IN THE FORM OF A CABLED MESSAGE TO BE DELIVERED BY THE EMBASSY TO WESTERTERP PROPOSING SPECIFIC DATES AND SUGGESTING THE GENERAL OUTLINES OF THE PROGRAM AND ITINERARY.
TANGUY

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